DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 300 191 RC 016 810

AUTHOR White, Karen; Baker, Barbara
TITLE Alaska Women: A Databook.
INSTITUTION Alaska Univ., Anchorage. Inst. of Social and Economic Research.
SPONS AGENCY Alaska Women's Commission, Anchorage.
PUB DATE Jun 84
NOTE 49p.
PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Statistical Data (110)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Alaska Natives; Birth Rate; *Census Figures; *Demography; Divorce; Employed Women; *Females; Heads of Households; Higher Education; Income; Labor Force; Marital Status; Occupations; Poverty; Profiles; Sex Differences; Unemployment; Womens Education
IDENTIFIERS *Alaska

ABSTRACT

This data book uses survey and census information to record social and economic changes of the past three decades and their effects upon the role of Alaska women in society. Results show Alaska women comprise 47% of the state population, an increase of 9% since 1950. Marriage continues as the predominant living arrangement for Alaska women, although the periods of singlehood appear to be lengthening. Women marry earlier than men in Alaska, a fact that may account for women's delayed entry into higher education and the job market. Women in Alaska generally have children at a younger age than do women nationally. Alaska working women with college degrees earn only two-thirds of what working men with similar education earn. The financial contribution of working wives in Alaska results in a 30% increase in median family income. The proportion of women who head households in Alaska has doubled since 1960. Alaska women have higher educational attainment than their national counterparts. Since 1950, Alaska women have increased their labor force participation by 548%, a faster rate than for women nationally. Alaska families headed by single women have median incomes two and a half times smaller than married couple families. While the fertility rate is declining, Alaska Natives continue to have historically higher fertility rates than other racial groups in Alaska and the nation. Divorce has steadily increased for both men and women in Alaska. In 1980, Alaska women over age 65 had the highest incidence of poverty than any age group in either sex. 13 references. (TES)

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Alaska Women: A Databook

Alaska Women's Commission

June, 1984

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CHANGE SHEET

Figure C, page 13.
The percentages listed for Married Couple Families were erroneously reversed. The correct percentages for Married Couple Families are: 76% for 1970 and 62% for 1980.

Figure E, page 15.
The labels for certain age groups were reversed, 35-44 replaces 45-64 and vice versa.

And thirty-five percent of Alaska women aged 65 years or older headed non-family households.

Table A.18, page 46.
The columns of data were erroneously reversed. All information found under 1970 is for 1980 and vice versa.

Alaska Women: A Databook

June, 1984

Prepared by:
The Institute of Social and Economic Research
Karen White

Barbara Baker
Project Manager for the Commission

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Introduction

Social and economic conditions of the past three decades have reshaped the roles that Alaska women are playing in society. However, no concise analysis had been conducted to measure these changes and their effects. Recognizing the importance of such information in determining public policy and development of responsive programs, the Alaska Women's Commission contracted with the Institute of Social and Economic Research to prepare an analysis and databook. This report profiles Alaska women in the 1980's and their changing roles. It also looks at how Alaska women are the same or different from their national counterparts. The second portion of this report contains a comprehensive collection of data on Alaska women from the U.S. Census. Recent and historical data have been presented (where available) for use in trend analysis.

It is hoped that this study on Alaskan women will create an environment for discussion of women's issues and serve to direct public policy that will improve the status of Alaskan women.

Summary of Findings

Summary of Findings

Alaska women comprise 47 percent of the state population, which represents an increase of 9 percent since 1950.

Marriage continues as the predominant living arrangement for Alaska women, although the periods of singlehood appear to be lengthening.

Women marry earlier than men in Alaska. This difference in timing of marriage between men and women may in part account for women postponing higher education and delaying entry into the labor market.

Divorce has steadily increased for both men and women in Alaska. In 1980, the proportion divorced was higher for most age groups than in the United States.

Women in Alaska have children at a younger age than they do nationally.

While the fertility rate is declining, Alaska Natives continue to have historically higher fertility rates than other racial groups in Alaska and in the nation.

Alaska women with professional or managerial jobs have about the same number of children as those with blue collar, clerical, sales and service jobs. Also, women with the highest family incomes have about as many children as those with the lowest income.

Over 62 percent of Alaska working women are concentrated in low paying occupations such as clerical, service or sales.

Alaska women earn 58 cents for every dollar a man earns.

Alaska working women with college degrees earn only two thirds that of working men with similar education and less than working men at any level of education.

Alaska women have median incomes of less than half that of Alaska men.

Alaska families headed by a woman alone have median incomes two and a half times smaller than married couple families.

The financial contribution of working wives in Alaska results in a 30 percent increase in median family income.

The average Alaskan household size is decreasing but remains larger than the national average.

The proportion of women who head households in Alaska has doubled since 1960.

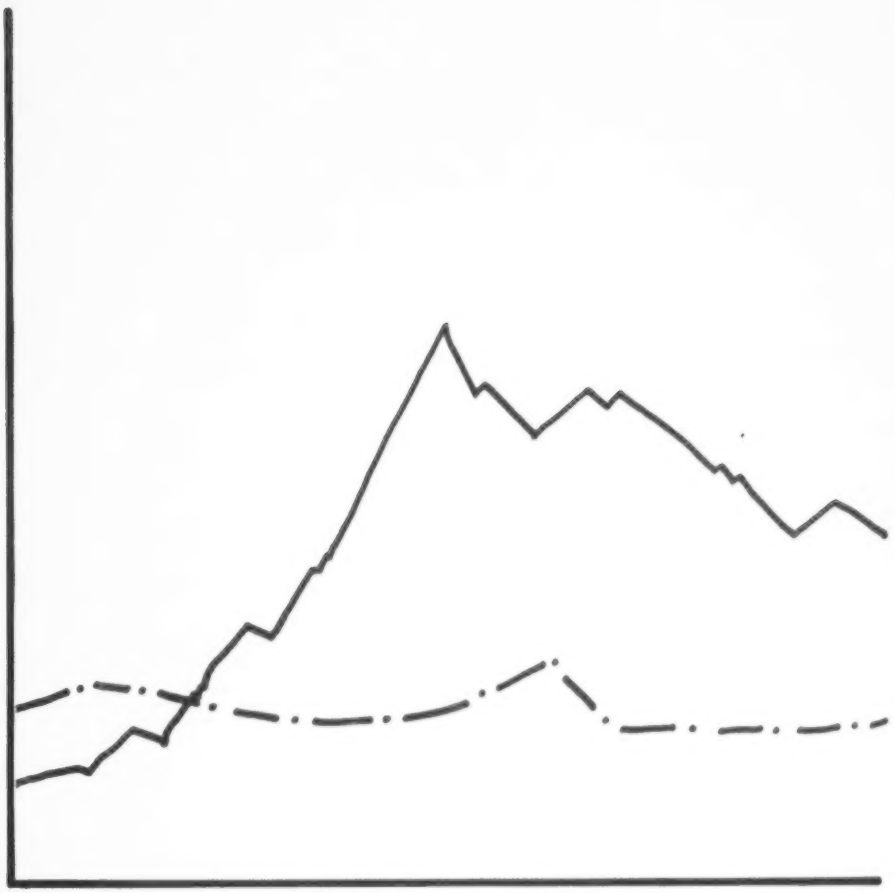
Alaska women and men have higher educational attainment than their national counterparts.

Since 1950, Alaska woman have increased their labor force participation by 548 percent. This rate of increase has been faster for Alaska women than for women nationally. More than one-half of all women in Alaska participate in the labor force, narrowing the gap of participation between men and women to only 22 percent.

The pattern of labor force participation for Alaska women has changed radically over the decade. Fewer women drop out of the workforce during their childbearing years, yet they continue to raise families, thus creating an increasing need for child care services.

In 1980, over one-quarter of Alaska families headed by women were in poverty. In rural Alaska, more than one out of every three families headed by women fell below the poverty level.

Alaska women over the age of 65 had the highest incidence of poverty of any age group of either sex, in 1980.



Alaska Women: A Databook

Population Characteristics

Women remained in the minority in Alaska in 1980, unlike in the United States, but by a smaller margin than in the preceding thirty years. In 1980, women comprised 47 percent of the state population, an increase of 9 percent since 1950. (Refer to Appendix Table A.1.) Blacks are the only racial group for which women are still substantially outnumbered by men; this is due to the fact that most blacks have come to the state during military service, and most of these have been men. In 1980, for every 100 Black men in Alaska there were 44 Black women.

Figure A shows how the age distribution of women in Alaska has shifted in the last ten years. In 1970, the largest age group among females was the youngest, girls up to nine years old. In 1980, women from 20 to 29 made up the single largest group. (See also Appendix Table A.2.) The in-migration of young adult white women primarily accounts for this change. The age distribution of Alaska Native females has remained unchanged.

Alaska women are significantly younger than U.S. women. The median age of Alaska women in 1980 was 25.7 years, for U.S. women it was 31.3 years. Sixty percent of Alaska women were under the age of 30 and only 5 percent were over 60 years old, while 47 percent of women nationally were under 30 and 18 percent were over 60.

Marital Status

In Alaska, as in the rest of the country, the vast majority of men and women marry. In 1980, 92 percent of women and nearly 83 percent of men 30 to 34 years old had married at least once. This compares to 90 percent for women and 84 percent for men in this age group for the nation. (Appendix Table A.3.) While the proportion of women who have ever been married has fluctuated over the decades, a slightly higher prortion of Alaska women of nearly all ages have been married at least once than that for U.S. woman.

Alaska women, like their U.S. counterparts, are delaying marriage. In 1980, nearly 40 percent of Alaska women between the ages of 20 and 24 had never married, up dramatically from 14 percent in 1960. Alaska women are still, however, marrying younger than U.S. women. In 1980, more than half of all U.S. women between the ages of 20 and 24 had never married. It is thought that later marriage may result in later childbearing and smaller families.[1] For example, in 1980, Alaska women aged 35 to 44 who had married between 15 and 19 had an average of 3.3 children, while those who first married after 30 had 1.5 children. (Refer to Appendix Table A.5.)

Other marital status differences in Alaska also follow national patterns. Women in Alaska and the United States are more likely than men to be married up to a certain age, about 40 in Alaska and 35 in the rest of the country. Alaska women are three or four times more likely than men to be married among 15 or 19 year olds, and about one-and-a-half times more likely among 20 to 24 year olds. These differences in the timing of marriage may in part account for differences in educational attainment and labor market participation: women may postpone or not complete higher education nor establish themselves as early as men in the labor market.

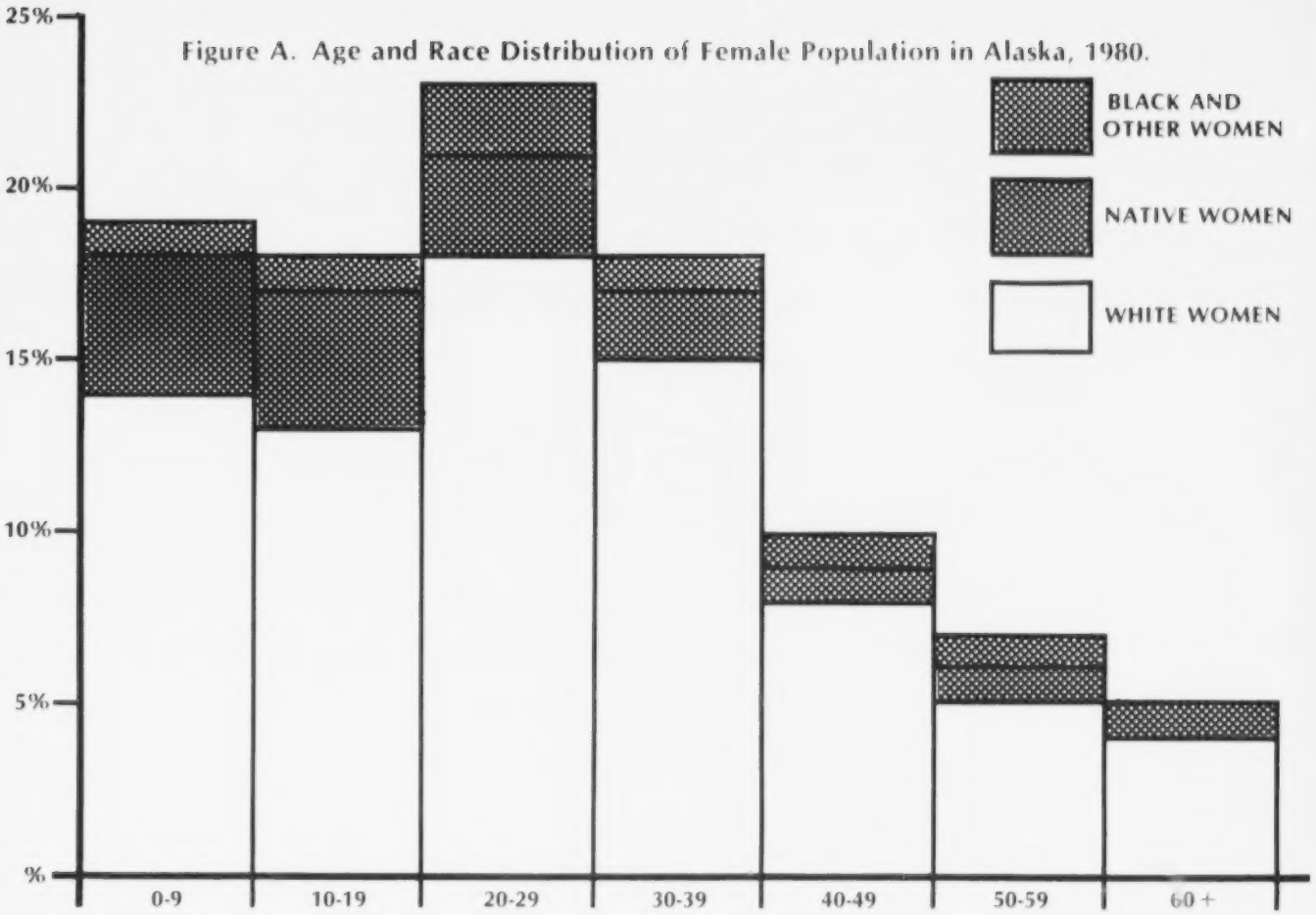
Among older Alaskans, women are much less likely to be married than men, again in keeping with national patterns. In 1980, about one-half of women aged 65 or older were widowed, down slightly from 1960 when 57 percent of older Alaska women were widowed. Only 18 percent of older Alaska men, on the other hand, were widowed in 1980. Wives tend to live longer than their husbands, and widowed men are more likely to remarry, in part because there are more older women than men.[2]

The proportion of Alaska women who are divorced has risen since 1960, from 3 to 9 percent, and in 1980 the proportion divorced was higher in Alaska than nationally for most age groups. The proportion divorced peaks in the 30s and 40s for both women and men, exceeding 12 percent for women and men aged 35 to 44 in Alaska, and 11 percent for U.S. women and 8 percent for U.S. men aged 30 to 34. In Alaska, however, unlike the rest of the country, the proportion divorced decreases only slightly for those 65 and older, to about 8 percent for women and 9 percent for men, as compared to 3 percent for women and 4 percent for men in the United States.

The combined effects of later first marriage and increased divorce have caused an overall decline in the past 30 years in the proportion of Alaska and U.S. women who are married. Yet, overall, the proportion married may remain higher for Alaska women due to two factors: first, the fact that men outnumber women in Alaska, unlike in the nation; and second, because women in Alaska are younger than their national counterparts.

Despite the increase in divorces and trend toward marrying later, marriage continues as the predominant living arrangement at some stage in the life of Alaska and U.S. women. There is no evidence that lifetime singlehood is on the rise among women in Alaska, and the decrease in lifetime singlehood for Alaska men has been dramatic. The institution of marriage shows the same staying power in Alaska as in the nation and probably for the same reasons: the companionship and financial well-being it can provide, and the view that it is the precursor to parenthood.

Figure A. Age and Race Distribution of Female Population in Alaska, 1980.



Childbearing

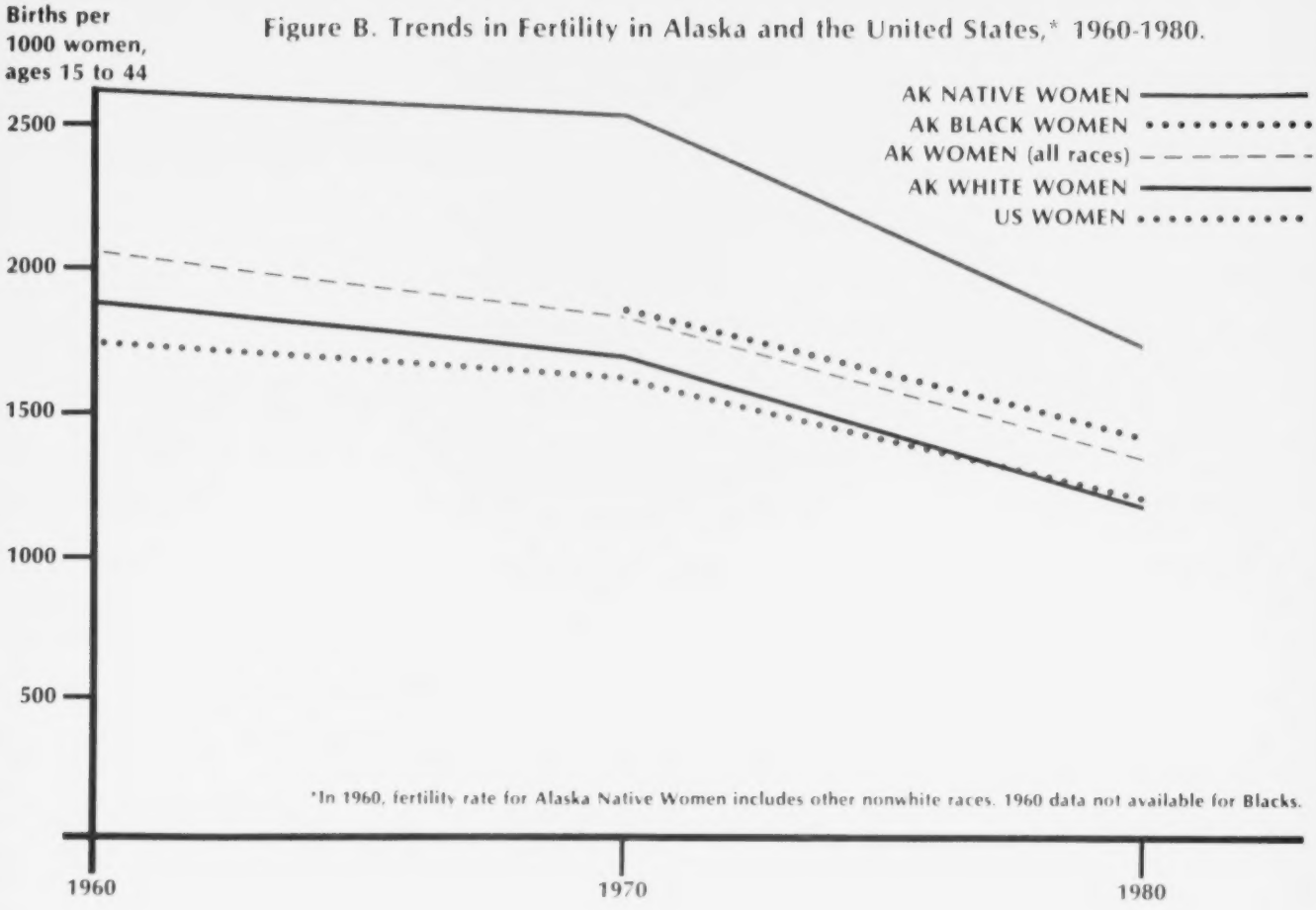
In both Alaska and the United States, most women are mothers by the end of their childbearing years. Fewer than 8 percent of Alaska women aged 40 to 44 who had ever married remained childless in 1980. There has been a trend to delay childbearing in both Alaska and the United States, but this trend has not been as strong in Alaska. Bianchi and Spain note that for the nation, in 1980, a majority of ever-married women in their 20s, 66 percent, were childless, up from 51 percent in 1970. In Alaska, that figure was much lower, 34 percent, up from 28 percent a decade earlier. Alaska women, then, have children at a younger age than is true nationally. (See Appendix Table A.4.)

This difference may have important implications for Alaska women. Women who have children before age 21 tend to finish fewer years of school than those who delay motherhood. These women show no signs of catching up later. "Because education is so closely linked to labor force opportunities, lower attainment often translates into lower earnings later in life. Early childbearers also have larger families and a higher incidence of poverty than women who bear children later in life."[3]

As shown in Figure B, fertility in Alaska has declined since 1960, following the national decrease in fertility. Alaska women, especially Native Alaskans, have historically had a fertility rate significantly higher than the national rate. The difference between Alaska Native women and other Alaska women remains marked, but overall the fertility of Native women fell at a faster rate than that for both Whites and Blacks (see Appendix Table A.4.) This decline is in keeping with trends toward lower fertility among all industrialized nations. In general, fertility levels in Alaska are higher in rural areas than in urban areas. (See Table 1.)

Appendix Table A.5. shows that fertility in Alaska varies inversely with age of marriage and labor force status, as it does in the United States. This relationship, however, may be weaker for younger women in Alaska than for older Alaska women and for American women in general. In 1980, Alaska women who were college graduates had an average of 1.1 children, compared to 1.5 for women who were high school graduates. American women who were college graduates had .6 children in 1980, while those who were high school graduates had 1.2. The difference between the Alaska groups is much smaller than the difference nationally between these groups; childbearing appears to have fewer effects on educational attainment in

Figure B. Trends in Fertility in Alaska and the United States,* 1960-1980.



Alaska. A similar situation exists with respect to labor force status. In 1980, Alaska women in the labor force had an average of 1.2 children, .5 fewer than those not in the labor force, while American women in the labor force had about half as many children as those not in the labor force, .8 versus 1.7. Labor force participation in Alaska also appears to be more weakly related to child bearing than nationally.

Unlike the rest of the country, occupation and family income do not seem to be inversely related to fertility in Alaska. In 1980, Alaska women with professional or managerial jobs had about the same number of children (1.3) as those with blue collar, clerical and sales, and service jobs, while in the United States, fertility ranged from .6 children for professional-managerial women workers to 1.2 children for blue collar women workers. The 1980 data also suggests that in Alaska women with the highest family incomes have about as many children as those with the lowest incomes. This is contrary to national trends, where women with the highest family incomes had the fewest children, while women with the lowest family incomes had the greatest number of children.

This difference between Alaska and U.S. women with respect to childbearing and labor force status and occupation may have important implications for the state. Alaska can expect to have relatively more children with working mothers than the rest of the country.

Household and Family Living Arrangements

Changes in household size and composition in Alaska parallel those in the United States in the past decade. Average household size in Alaska decreased by 17 percent, while in the nation it decreased by 9 percent. Although household size decreased faster in Alaska, they remain larger than the national average, 2.91 to 2.82, respectively. The share of all households that includes a married couple also fell in Alaska as it did in the United States. Married couple households made up 76 percent of all Alaska households in 1970 as compared to 62 percent in 1980. (See Figure C). Nationally, married couple households comprised 69 percent and 61 percent of all households in 1970 and 1980, respectively. The rate of change was again higher in Alaska than in the rest of the country, by 6 percent.

TABLE 1. FERTILITY BY AGE, ALASKA AND UNITED STATES, 1980

	Alaska			United States
	Total	Urban	Rural	
Women 15-24 years	38,310	16,879	12,657	21,063,445
Children ever born				
Per 1000 women	414	380	455	317
Per 1000 women ever married	894	776	1,074	855
Women 25-34 years	42,836	19,462	13,825	18,747,239
Children ever born				
Per 1000 women	1,428	1,337	1,610	1,476
Per 1000 women ever married	1,610	1,499	1,797	1,688
Women 35-44 years	24,293	11,323	8,147	13,067,348
Children ever born				
Per 1000 women	2,683	2,430	3,051	2,639
Per 1000 women ever married	2,758	2,507	3,136	2,767

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C3, Table 64.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C1, Table 84.

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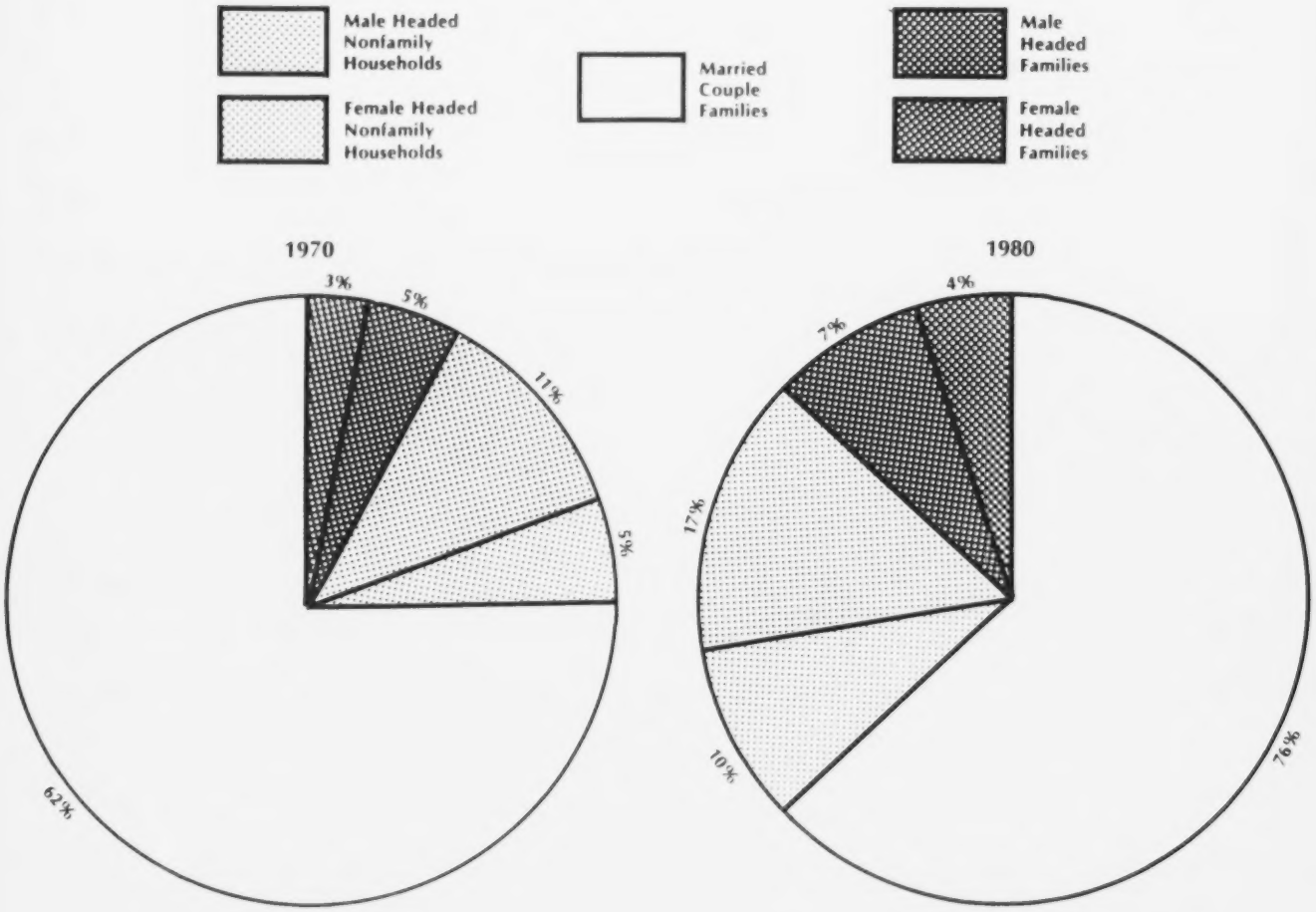
Figure C. Changes in Household Composition in Alaska, 1970-1980.



The most important change in living arrangements for women in Alaska and the United States has been the increase in the proportion who head households. (Refer to Appendix Table A.6.) The proportion of women in Alaska over the age of 25 who head households has doubled since 1960, from 11 to 22 percent, while that for women aged 65 and over increased by 36 percent.

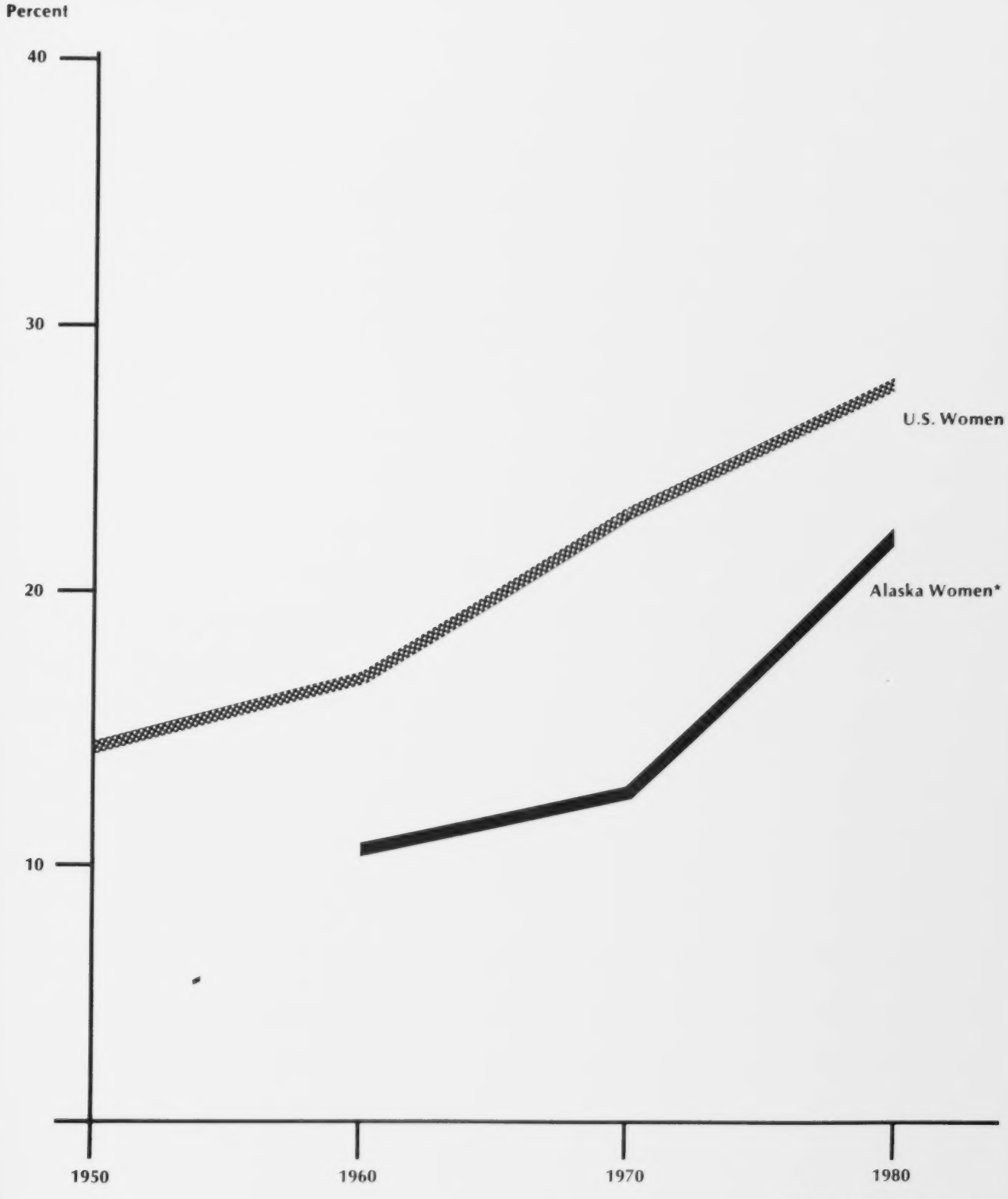
Alaska women today maintain a larger share of both family households, in which members are related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and nonfamily ones, in which an individual lives alone or with nonrelatives. Despite this increase, relatively fewer households are woman-headed in Alaska than in the United States, as Figures D and E illustrate. The difference is found mainly in the higher proportion of nonfamily households headed by woman in the rest of the country, over 16 percent, versus about 11 percent in Alaska. (See Appendix Table A.6.)

The growth in the proportion of younger Alaska women who head households is accounted for by later marriage and higher rates of divorce. For older Alaska women, higher divorce rates are a factor in the increased rate of headship.

The social implications of this change are important. Young female heads of households are more likely to head family than nonfamily households, and therefore more likely to have young children present. This has both social and economic implications, particularly as women typically earn less than men. A large proportion of households with incomes below the poverty level are headed by women, many of whom are either divorced with children or elderly widows.

The data shows that Alaska and American women are increasingly likely to spend their adult and later years alone, and that they are more likely in their middle years to maintain their own household. These changes lend ever greater importance to women's educational attainment, labor force participation, and earned income.

Figure D. Trends in Household Headship by Women in Alaska and United States.



*1950 data not available for Alaska.

Figure E. Female Household Headship, Family and Nonfamily Households, Alaska and United States, 1980.

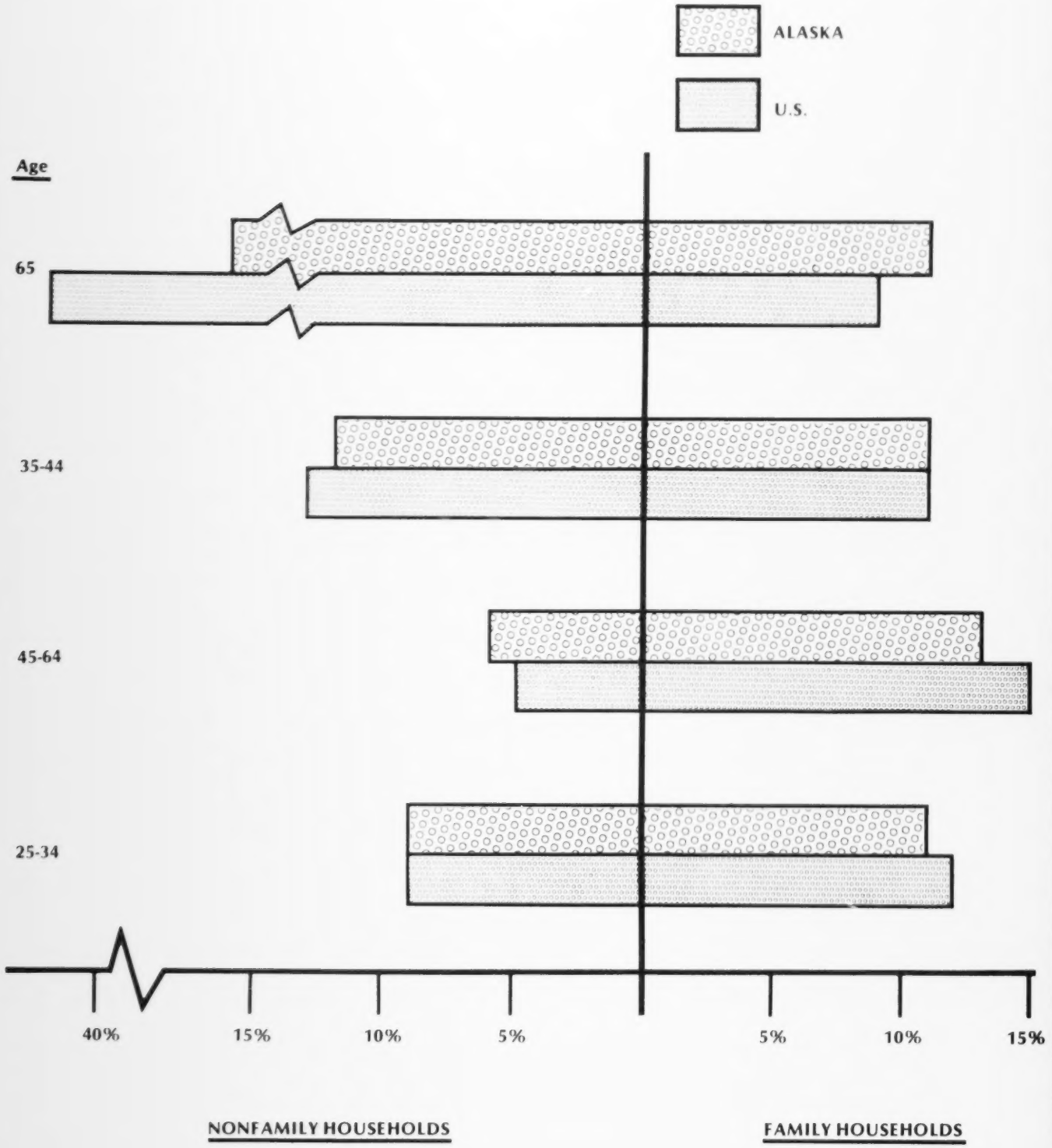
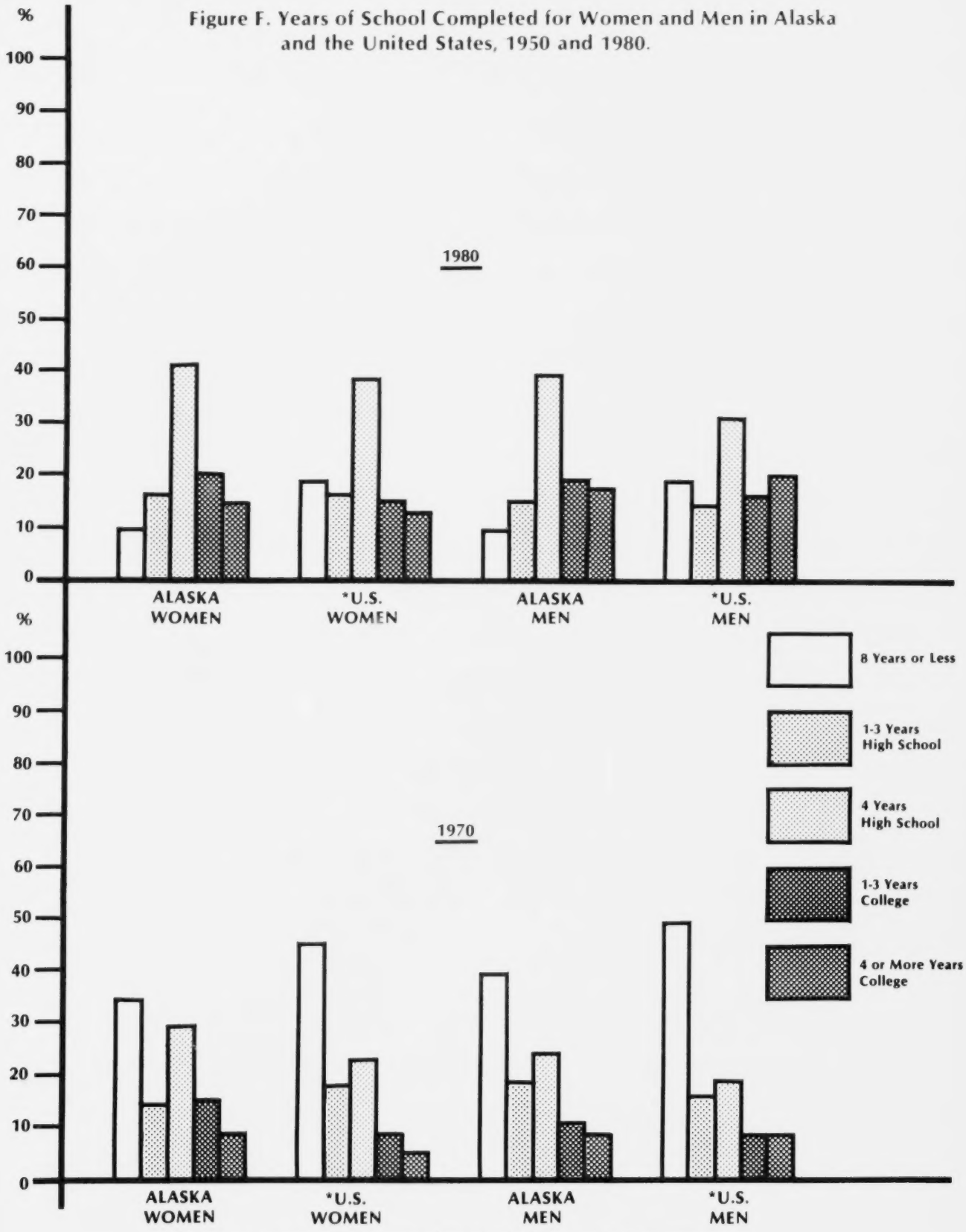


Figure F. Years of School Completed for Women and Men in Alaska and the United States, 1950 and 1980.



*Does not sum to 100%, due to persons whose school achievement was not reported.

Education

Both men and women in Alaska have historically had higher educational attainment than men and women nationally. Relatively more Alaskans aged 25 and over have completed high school and college since 1950. (See Appendix Table A.7.) In 1980, over 41 percent of Alaska women and 39 percent of men were high school graduates, compared to 37.7 percent of U.S. women and 31.1 percent of U.S. men. And nearly 35 percent of Alaska women 25 years old or older had had at least some college training versus 28 percent of American women.

Twenty and thirty years ago, Alaska women over 24 years old could be described as better educated than Alaska men of that age. In 1950, proportionately more women than men had completed high school and college. Since 1970, however, a slightly larger proportion of men than women in Alaska have gone beyond high school. In 1980, 17 percent of Alaska men 25 and over had at least completed college, while 14 percent of women made that claim. (See Figure F.)

Significant differences in educational attainment exist between urban and rural Alaska. (Refer to Appendix Table A.8.). In general, rural women and men have completed fewer years of school than their urban Alaska counterparts. Among Alaska women over 17 years of age, 26.5 percent of rural women have less than a high school education, while 14.3 percent of urban women have completed less than 4 years of high school.

The educational attainment of Alaska women is high by national standards, and close to that of Alaska men. It is not possible to assess differences in the content of the postsecondary education of Alaskans, however, due to lack of relevant information it seems likely, however, that Alaska women earn degrees in keeping with national patterns. If this is so, they will study education, the humanities, and health sciences more often than men, although women are increasingly seeking degrees in business, engineering, and physical sciences. These differences play an important role in employment and pay differentials between men and women.

Labor Force Participation and Occupation

Labor force participation by Alaska women has increased dramatically since 1950. In the thirty years from 1950 to 1980, the number of women in the Alaska labor force[4] increased from about 12,200 to over 79,300, an increase of 548 percent. Nationally, the number of women in the labor force increased 171 percent. The number of men in the Alaska labor force during that period increased 128 percent, compared to 46 percent nationally.

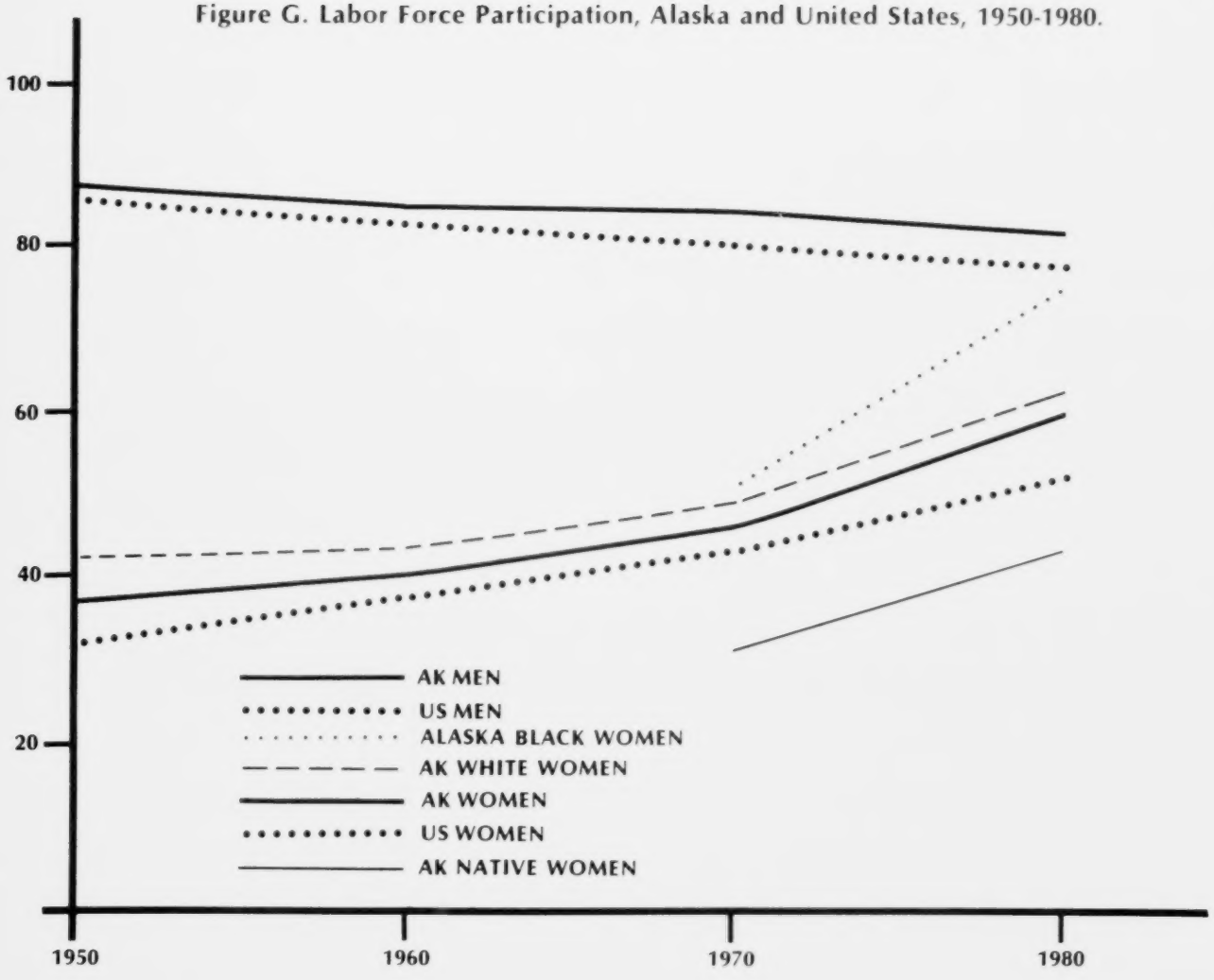
Figure G shows the overall trends in labor force participation in Alaska and the United States since 1950. The rate of participation for women in Alaska and the rest of the country has increased steadily over the past three decades. In the last decade, Alaska women have increased their rate of participation faster than women nationally. The increase in labor force participation among Alaska Native women has been particularly notable; in the decade from 1970 to 1980 their participation increased 39 percent. A relatively large proportion of Alaska women, especially Black women, are in the labor force than in the rest of the country.

While a relatively larger proportion of Alaska men, like Alaska women, are in the labor force than in the United States, the rate of participation for men has decreased since 1950. The gap between the sexes in labor force participation has narrowed considerably. In 1950, 36.8 percent of Alaska women age 14 and older were in the labor force, while 87.7 percent of men in Alaska were in the labor force, a differnce of nearly 51 percent. This gap had narrowed to 22 percent by 1980. (See Appendix Table A.9.)

Figure H shows the proportion of Alaska women and men in different age groups who were in the labor force from 1960 to 1980. Although men's participation rates remain higher than women's at every age, women have increased their participation in all but the older age groups since 1960, while the rate of participation among men has declined, especially at older ages. (Refer to Appendix Table A.10.) These trends are consistent with national trends during this period.

The greatest increase in labor force particiption in the 1960s and 1970s was among women between ages 20 and 44, women with childrearing responsibilities. This is true not only in Alaska, but nationally as well. Especially striking is the change in participation of women between ages 25 and 40 from 1970 to 1980. In 1970, many of these women dropped out of the labor force, presumably to raise children and keep house. In 1980, however, this phenomenon seems to have virtually disappeared. This change, and the data which indicate that childbearing by Alaska women in their 20s remains the norm and that families headed by a woman alone are becoming increasingly prevalent, points to the certainty that the demand and need for child care has risen significantly, both in Alaska and in the United States.

Figure G. Labor Force Participation, Alaska and United States, 1950-1980.



Women hold different types of jobs than men, in Alaska and the United States. (See Appendix Table A.11.) Over 62 percent of Alaska working women are concentrated in low paying occupations such as clerical, services and sales, while the majority of jobs that men hold are professional, managerial or blue collar. Although women held 43 percent of jobs in Alaska in 1980, they are underrepresented, relative to this workplace share, in nearly every blue collar occupational group, including crafts, transportation, production and machine operatives, laborers, and farmers, fishers, and foresters. Women are also underrepresented among managers and administrators, where they account for 37 percent of all workers. In addition to traditional occupations, women's representation matches their position in the Alaska work force as a whole only among professional and technical workers. The major occupational difference between Alaska women and American women is that relatively few Alaska women hold jobs as operatives. This is, however, also true for Alaska men.

Figure I illustrates the occupational shifts that have occurred for women from 1970 to 1980. In both Alaska and the United States, most women hold white collar jobs, primarily in clerical and sales positions. An increase nationally in white collar jobs held by women has been due to an increase in clerical positions, while in Alaska the proportion of women with clerical jobs actually decreased. Growth in white collar jobs for Alaska women occurred in sales and professional, technical, and administrative fields.

Figure H.
Labor Force Participation Rates, by Age and Sex
1960-1980
Alaska

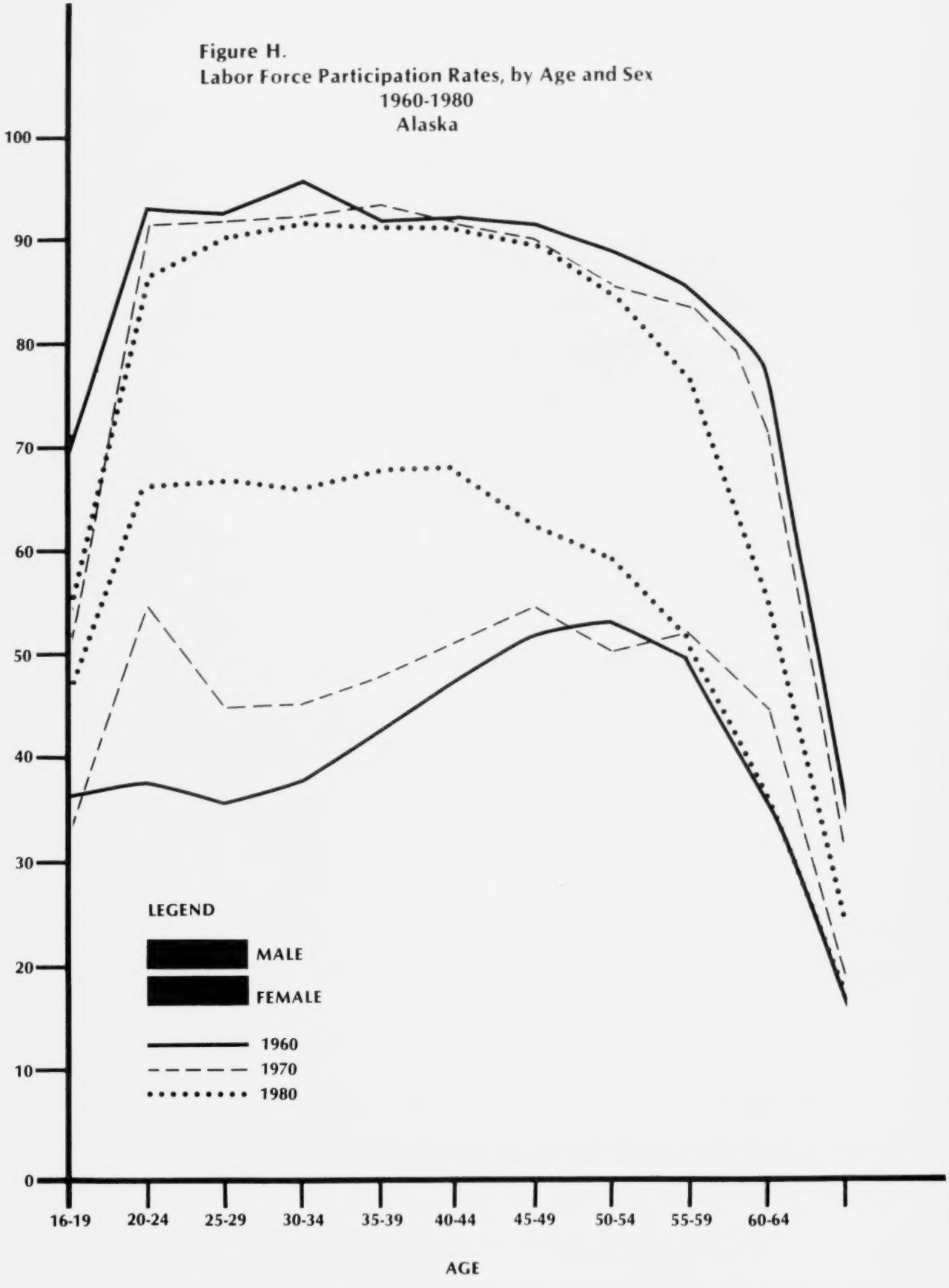
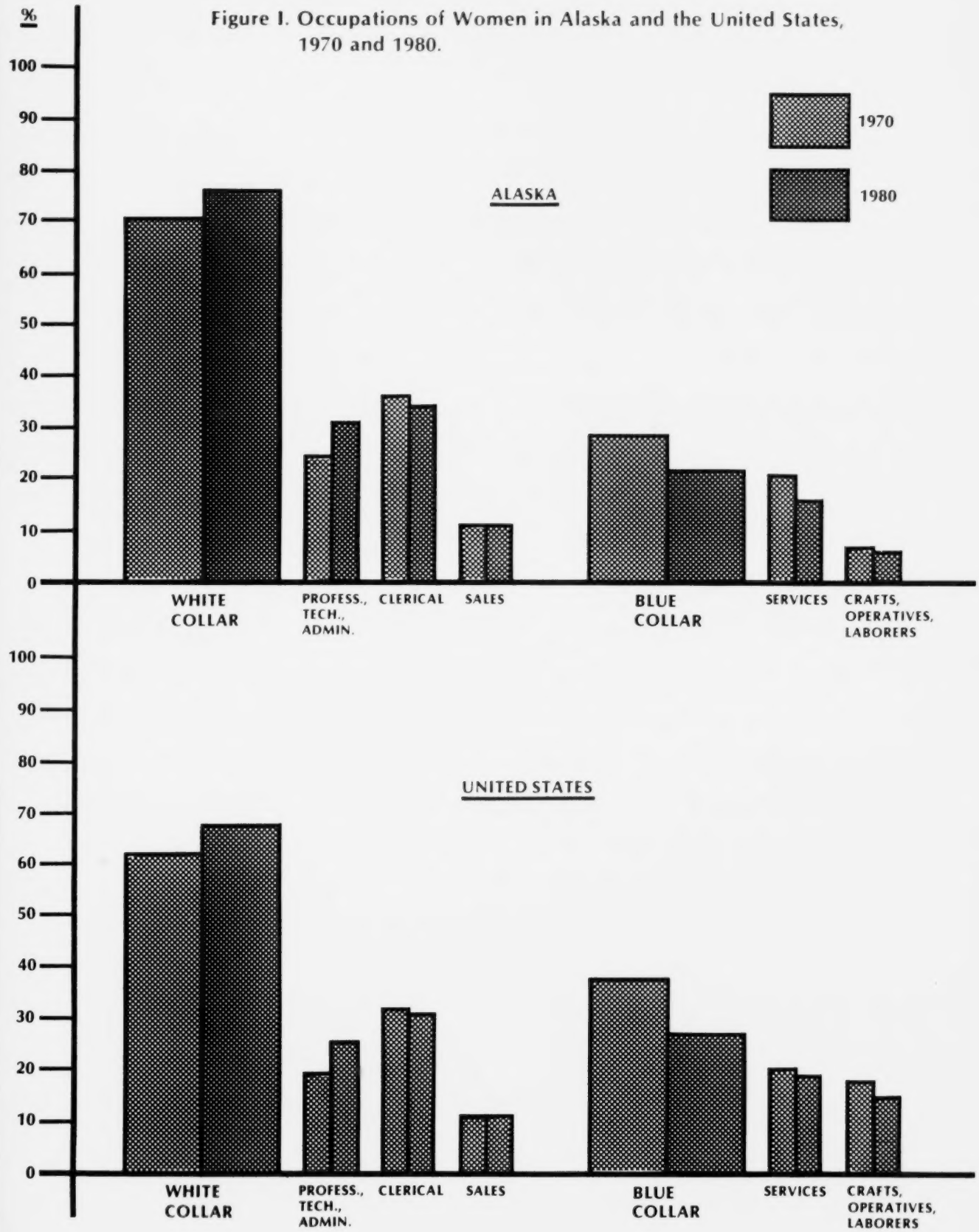


Figure 1. Occupations of Women in Alaska and the United States, 1970 and 1980.



Earnings

Working women in Alaska, as in the rest of the country, do not earn as much as working men. Figure J illustrates this fact. While Alaska women in the labor force have earned more than their national counterparts since 1960, they have also consistently earned much less than Alaksa men. Table 2 shows that in 1980, women in the labor force in Alaska earned barely more than half the amount men earned, $11,012 to $21,655. Even this large gap is an improvement over 1970, when Alaska women earned only 43 percent of men's earnings, and over 1960, when they earned 45 percent of men's earnings.

A number of explanations have been advanced to account for this difference. One is that women have less work experience than men because they enter and leave the labor force more often, for example, to raise a family. The data presented in the preceding section of this report casts doubt on the validity of this assertion. In 1980, labor force participation did not decrease for Alaska women in their 20s and 30s, a record proportion of women in this age group were in the labor force.

Another explanation for the earnings gap is that men and women hold different types of jobs. In 1980, in not one of twelve broad occupational groupings did Alaska women working full-time and year-round earn even 70 percent of the amount men earned. (See Appendix Table A.12.) The earnings differential was smallest among professional workers, where Alaska women earned 68 percent as much as their male counterparts, and among nonfarm laborers, a traditionally male field, where they earned 67 percent as much. (Only a few women in Alaska fall into this category, however.) Overall, women working full-time and year-round earned 58 dollars for every 100 dollars earned by men. The earnings gap was greatest for fabricating and farming, forestry, and fishing occupations. Even in occupational fields thought of traditionally as women's work such as clerical and service jobs, men earn much more than women. This is true in the rest of the nation as well. National studies that examine this issue for detailed occupational categories show wide disparity in salaries paid to men and women.

A third explanation offered is that women's education and skills do not equal those of men. Comparisons of average weekly earnings of Alaska women and men working full-time with comparable educational attainment do not support this contention, however. (See Appendix Table A.13.) Women who completed college earned only about two-thirds of male college graduate earnings in 1980 and earned less, on average, than men at any level of educational attainment. Women college graduates averaged $409 per week while men with a high school diploma, for example, earned $50 per week more. Comparable differences exist at all educational levels for both part-time and full-time workers, and the size of the differential increases with age.

Income and Poverty

The difference between men and women's earnings carries over to their incomes.[5] Alaska women's income has increased in real terms since 1960, including during the inflationary 1970s when women and men nationally experienced a real decline in income. Despite this, the gap between income for men and women in Alaska remains large. In 1980, Alaska women had a median income of less than half that of Alaska men. (Refer to Appendix Table A.14.)

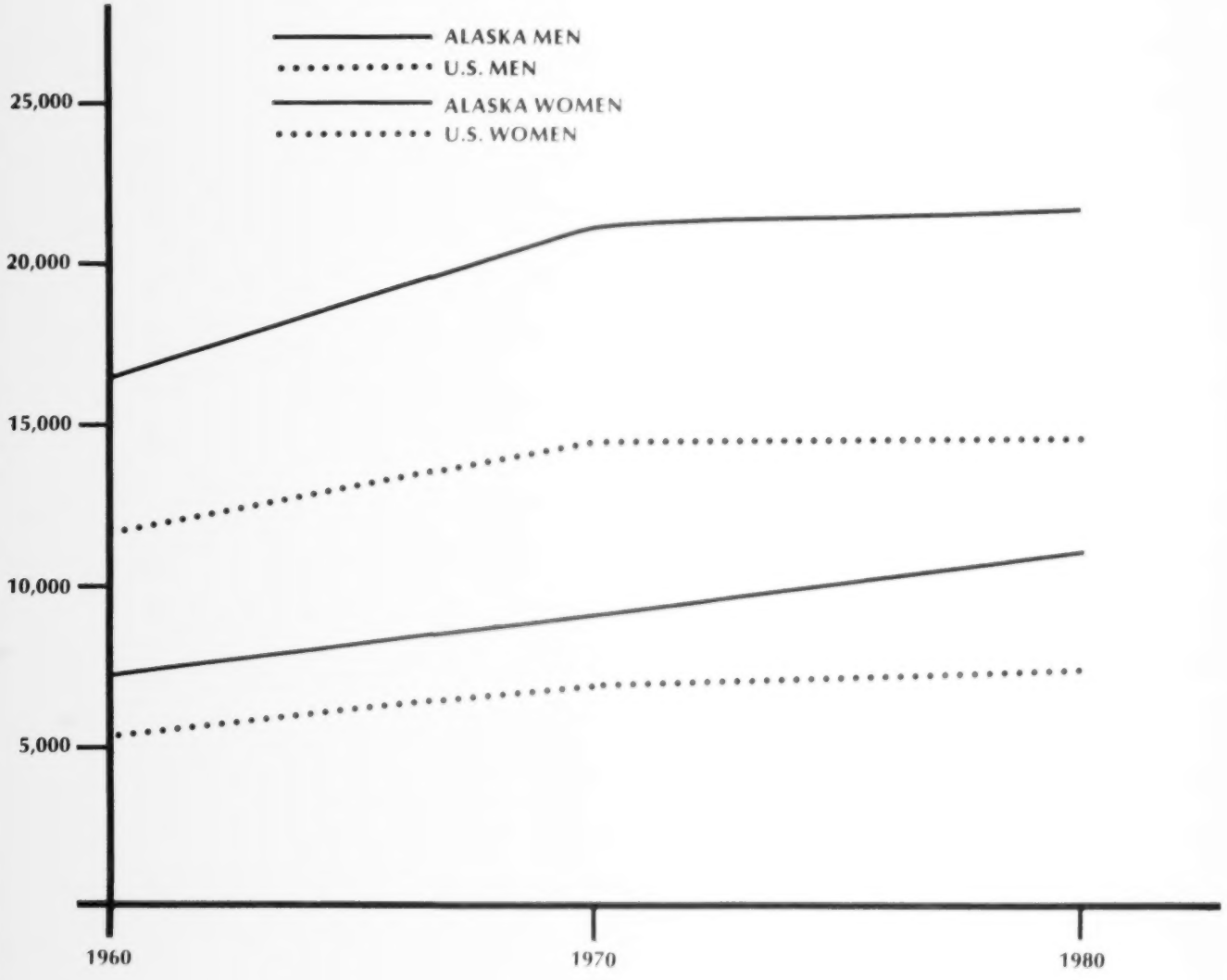
As a majority of adult women jointly maintain a household with a spouse, it is necessary to examine family income to fully assess the economic situation of women. Table 3 shows that married couple families had incomes significantly higher than that of families with a single adult head of either sex. The $31,026 median income of married couple families in 1980 is two and a half times that of families headed by a woman alone, and 36 percent higher than that of families headed by a man. It also shows that the financial contribution of working wives is significant; two earner married couple families had median incomes 30 percent higher than those in which the husband alone worked.

The disparity in family income is more pronounced in Alaska than for the nation. In 1980, U.S. woman-headed families had incomes about 55 percent of that for all families, while in Alaska, they had incomes 44 percent of the level for all families. (See Appendix Table A.15.) While the disparity between woman-headed and all families is greater in Alaska than in the United States, in general woman-headed families in Alaska had incomes slightly higher than those in the United States. Alaska Native and rural woman-headed families, however, had lower incomes in 1980 than U.S. woman-headed families.

A growing proportion of households are maintained by women, in Alaska as well as in the rest of the country. A significant portion of these households have incomes falling below poverty levels.[6] In 1980, over one-quarter of Alaska families headed by women were in poverty, compared to 8.6 percent for all families. (See Appendix Table A.16.) In rural Alaska, the proportion of woman-headed families in poverty is even higher; more than one out of every three, compared with 13 percent of all rural families. Despite the dimensions of the problem, a decade earlier the situation was considerably worse. In 1970, 42 percent of woman-headed families statewide, and 53 percent in rural areas, were in poverty.

Figure K and Table 4 show the composition of the population in poverty in Alaska and the United States in 1970 and 1980. The most striking change in Alaska is that in 1980, Whites comprised a majority of persons in poverty, whereas ten years earlier non-Whites, primarily Alaska Natives, comprised the majority in poverty. This change is due to the number of Whites that migrated to Alaska in that decade, which changed the racial composition of the state.

Figure J. Median Earnings of Experienced Labor Force, by Sex, Alaska and United States, 1960-1980. (In 1979 dollars)



Persons in families headed by women accounted for 20 percent of Alaska's poverty population in 1980, compared to 17 percent in 1970. This is significantly different from the national situation, where 36 percent of the poverty population in 1980, and 30 percent in 1970, was in female-headed families. This suggests that the national trend toward the "feminization of poverty" is not as strong in Alaska. Despite this, the incidence of poverty among Alaska families headed by women, shown in the preceding figure, is triple that for all families. Women supporting families earn much less than men, and mothers raising children by themselves frequently do so with no contribution by the absent father. Older Alaska women as well as mothers supporting families experience high levels of poverty. Most older women do not work, and a large portion, nearly a third in 1980, live alone. (See Appendix Table A.18.) Women over the age of 65 in 1980 had the highest incidence of poverty, of any age group of either sex in the state, 13.4 percent. (See Appendix Table A.17.) Although relatively few women in absolute numbers fall into this category, the magnitude of social and economic problems confronting older women, especially given the high cost of living in Alaska, are immense.

TABLE 2
MEDIAN EARNINGS OF LABOR FORCE BY SEX, 1960 - 1980
(1979 Dollars)

	Alaska			United States		
	Women	Men	Ratio Women/Men	Women	Men	Ratio Women/Men
1960	$7,228	$16,228	45	$5,532	$11,326	49
1970	$9,006	$21,015	43	$6,761	$14,225	48
1980	$11,012	$21,655	51	$7,333	$14,473	51

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D1-B, U.S. Summary, Table 325.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 231.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Tables 188 and 189.
1960 U.S. Census, Report V.1, Part 3, Table 68.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D1, U.S. Summary, Table 229.
1960 U.S. Census, Report V.1, Part 1, U.S. Summary, Table 215.

TABLE 3
MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME BY FAMILY TYPE
ALASKA, 1980

	Alaska	
	Statewide	Rural
All Families	$28,395	$25,574
Married Couple Families	$31,026	$27,888
Wife in Labor Force	34,677	32,666
Wife Not in Labor Force	26,738	23,121
Female Head	$12,375	$10,147
In Labor Force	15,899	13,041
Not in Labor Force	6,594	7,060
Male Head	$22,786	$17,245

SOURCE: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PL80-1-D3, Table 238.

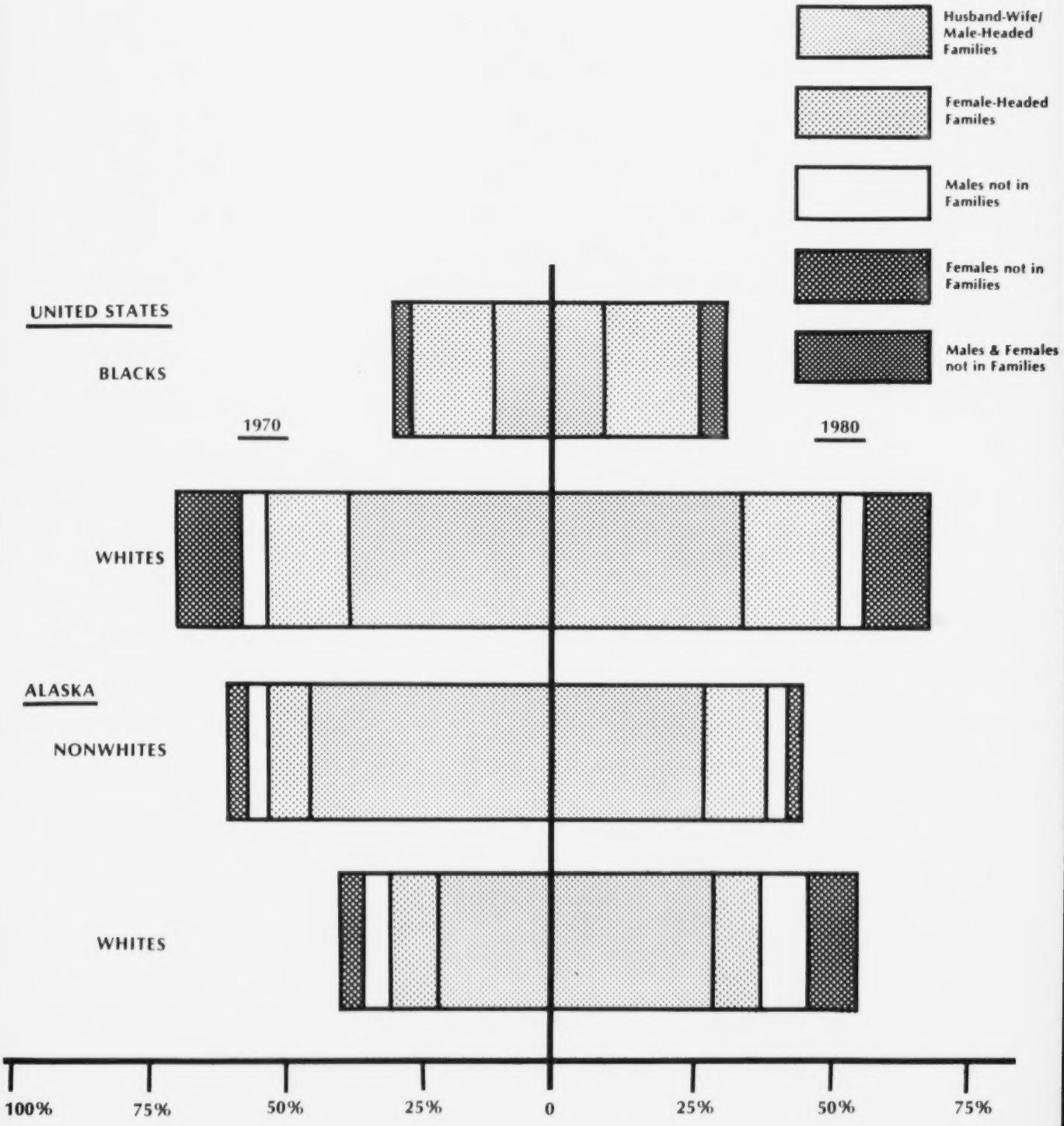
TABLE 4
COMPOSITION OF POPULATION IN POVERTY IN ALASKA AND UNITED STATES
1970 AND 1980

	1970			1980		
	Alaska		U.S.	Alaska		U.S.
	# Persons	Percent	Percent	#Persons	Percent	Percent
White						
Total in poverty	14,383	100.0	100.0	23,050	100.0	100.0
Husband-wife/male-headed families	7,809	54.3	54.7	11,620	50.4	49.9
Female-headed families	3,248	22.6	21.5	4,045	17.6	25.5
Males not in families	1,715	11.9	6.2	3,720	16.1	7.6
Females not in families	1,611	11.2	17.6	3,665	15.9	17.0
Non-White*						
Total in poverty	21,172	100.0	100.0	18,565	100.0	100.0
Husband-wife/male-headed families	16,126	76.2	40.1	11,169	60.1	25.9
Female-headed families	2,847	13.5	48.4	4,402	23.7	58.6
Males not in families	1,216	5.7	4.0	1,553	8.4	6.6
Females not in families	983	4.6	7.4	1,441	7.8	8.9

*U.S. data for Blacks only.

SOURCES: 1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Table 207.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 245.
Bianchi and Spain, p. 25.

Figure K. Composition of Population in Poverty, Alaska and United States, 1970 and 1980.



Conclusions

The lives of Alaska women differ from their national counterparts in several respects. They continue to marry earlier and to have more children, and at a younger age, than do women nationally. Alaska women are delaying marriage and childbearing somewhat, but not to the same extent as women in the rest of the country.

The consequences of early marriage and childbearing in Alaska do not appear to follow national patterns, however. Nationally, early marriage and childbearing and larger familes are associated with lower educational attainment and lower labor force participation. Alaska women, however, have relatively high educational attainment and high levels of labor force participation. Although fertility does decline slightly with higher educational levels and with participation in the labor force, this relationship is weak compared to the United States. The national pattern of smaller families with higher incomes and with higher status occupations also appears not to apply in Alaska.

In other areas, Alaska is very similar to the United States. Labor force participation by women in their childbearing years has increased by astonishing amounts. An increasing proportion of families and households in Alaska are headed by women, due to later marriage and higher divorce rates. Despite the fact that a high proportion of women of all ages work, a very large portion of woman-headed families are in poverty. Fewer women leave the labor force in their 20s to raise a family than in the past, but Alaska women's earnings are far below men's earnings, in spite of their similar levels of educational attainment. Alaska women are still concentrated in relatively few occupations, as women are nationally.

Women in Alaska, then, blend many characteristics of the past with recent new developments. Most of them marry and have children and most of them work. They head their own household more often but suffer high levels of poverty. The challenges that face Alaska women are many as they balance the demands upon them as wives and mothers with those of worker and breadwinner.

Endnotes

[1]Bianchi and Spain, *American Women: Three Decades of Change*, page 2.

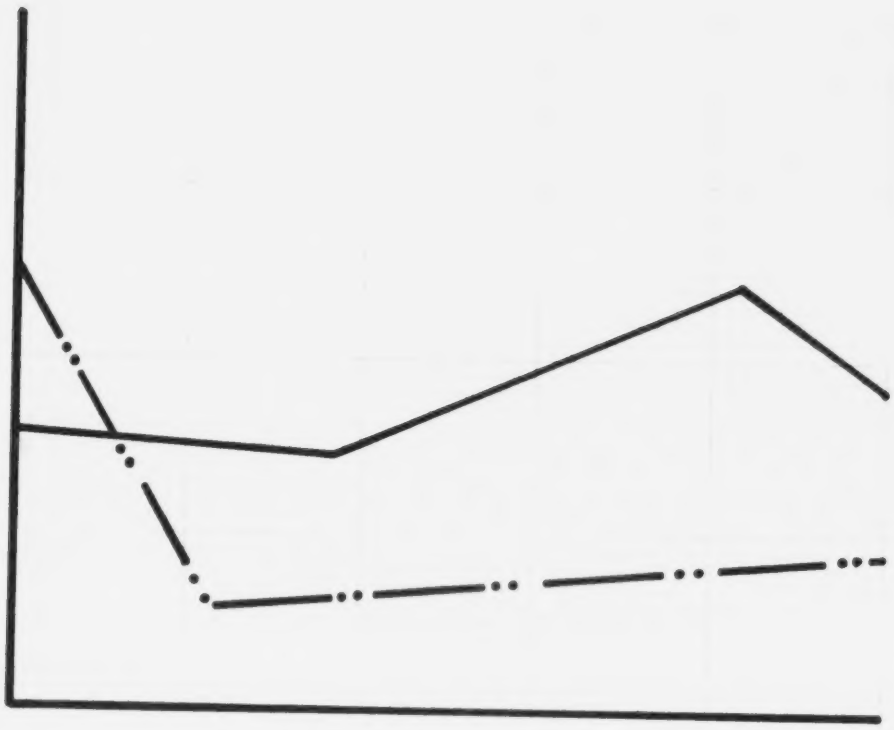
[2]Ibid., page 3.

[3]Ibid, page 5.

[4]To be defined as in the labor force, an individual must either be employed or actively looking for work.

[5]Income includes earnings, such as wages and salaries, and unearned income, such as interest and dividends, Social Security payments, unemployment compensation, public assistance payments, alimony or child support, workers' compensation, pension payments, etc.

[6]National poverty standards are set by the U.S. government. They take into consideration the size of the family but not the cost of living in an area. This results in understating the amount of poverty in Alaska.



Appendix Tables

TABLE A.1
COMPOSITION OF ALASKA POPULATION
1950 - 1980

		Total	White	Alaska Native	Black	Other
1980	Total	401,851	309,728	64,103	13,643	14,377
	Female	188,810	144,139	31,561	5,965	7,145
1970	Total	300,382	237,798	50,819	8,803	2,962
	Female	137,300	107,233	24,833	3,671	1,563
1960	Total	226,167	174,546	43,081	6,771	1,769
	Female	97,356	73,352	20,822[a]	2,470	712[b]
1950	Total	128,643	92,808	33,863	NA	1,972[c]
	Female	49,171	32,418	16,315	NA	438[c]

[a]May include a small number of females in races not reported separately except Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino.

[b]Includes Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino.

[c]Includes Blacks.

SOURCE: 1980 U.S. Censue, Report PC80-1-B3, Tables 15, 22.
1950 U.S. Census, Report P-B51, Table 6.
1960 U.S. Census, Report V.1, Part 3, Table 15.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Tables 139, 140.

TABLE A.2
AGE BY RACE DISTRIBUTION OF FEMALES IN ALASKA
1980

Age	Total	White	Alaska Native	Black	Other
0 - 9	36,009	26,013	6,930	1,439	1,627
10 - 19	33,897	24,047	7,729	1,043	1,078
20 - 29	43,985	34,319	6,243	1,773	1,650
30 - 39	33,726	27,547	3,898	774	1,507
40 - 49	18,644	14,805	2,710	464	665
50 - 59	12,968	10,359	1,932	288	389
60 - 69	6,259	4,697	1,278	125	159
70 & over	3,322	2,352	841	59	70
TOTAL	188,810	144,139	31,561	5,965	7,145
Percent Distribution					
All Ages	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
0 - 9	19	18	22	24	23
10 - 19	18	17	24	17	15
20 - 29	23	24	20	30	23
30 - 39	18	19	12	13	21
40 - 49	10	10	9	8	9
50 - 59	7	7	6	5	5
60 - 69	3	3	4	2	2
70 & over	2	2	3	1	1
Median Age	25.7	26.6	21.8	23.0	24.7

SOURCE: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 203.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-B3, Tables 19, 20.

TABLE A.3
MARITAL STATUS BY AGE AND SEX, ALASKA, 1960 - 1980
(Percentage Distribution)

	WOMEN			MEN		
	1960	**1970**	**1980**	**1960**	**1970**	**1980**
Total	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	12 9	18 0	22 8	33 5	31 5	32 9
Married	79 2	74 1	63 9	60 7	62 8	57 7
Widowed	5 0	3 8	4 4	1 8	1 6	1 3
Divorced	2 9	4 1	8 9	4 0	4 1	8 1
15-17 years old	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	90 5	94 3	97 2	98 8	98 0	98 9
Married	9 4	5 7	2 6	1 2	1 2	1 0
Widowed	0 0	0 0	2 0	0 0	0 3	0 0
Divorced	0 1	0 0	0 2	0 0	0 5	0 1
18-19 years old	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	52 2	53 9	75 7	91 2	92 7	93 5
Married	46 9	44 5	23 3	8 6	7 0	6 3
Widowed	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Divorced	0 9	1 6	1 0	0 2	0 3	0 2
20-24 years old	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	13 7	19 3	39 3	63 6	57 6	63 6
Married	84 9	77 4	54 9	34 7	40 9	33 0
Widowed	0 1	0 4	0 3	0 1	0 0	0 1
Divorced	1 3	2 9	5 5	1 6	1 4	3 3
25-29 years old	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	5 6	9 0	19 0	22 0	21 0	33 2
Married	91 9	85 8	70 5	74 5	75 3	58 0
Widowed	0 3	0 5	0 7	0 2	0 4	0 2
Divorced	2 1	4 7	9 8	3 3	3 2	8 6
30-34 years old	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	3 8	4 1	7 8	13 6	10 3	17 2
Married	92 3	92 9	79 6	82 5	84 1	71 8
Widowed	1 4	1 0	0 7	0 5	0 6	0 1
Divorced	2 5	2 0	11 9	3 3	5 0	10 9
35-44 years old	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	2 7	2 4	4 0	10 2	8 6	9 2
Married	92 2	91 3	82 0	83 8	85 4	78 2
Widowed	1 6	2 0	1 6	0 7	0 2	0 4
Divorced	3 5	4 3	12 3	5 3	5 6	12 2
45-54 years old	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	4 3	3 5	2 6	8 3	7 0	6 2
Married	82 3	85 0	81 1	81 4	83 9	81 9
Widowed	8 3	4 0	5 7	2 6	2 5	1 4
Divorced	5 1	7 5	10 6	7 7	6 6	10 5
55-64 years old	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	6 6	5 3	2 4	17 2	7 3	6 2
Married	68 3	72 6	70 5	67 2	79 5	79 4
Widowed	19 2	12 7	16 0	6 7	6 4	4 3
Divorced	6 0	9 4	11 1	8 9	6 8	10 1
65 and over	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0	100 0
Never married	1 4	10 0	2 8	25 4	19 5	7 6
Married	38 8	34 3	39 3	47 2	54 9	64 9
Widowed	56 9	50 8	49 7	20 0	16 6	18 1
Divorced	2 9	4 9	8 2	7 4	9 0	9 4

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 205.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Table 152.
1960 U.S. Census, Report V.1, Part 3, Table 105.

TABLE A.4
FERTILITY BY AGE AND RACE, ALASKA, 1980

	White			Black		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Women 15 - 24 years	28,342	21,021	7,321	1,419	1,318	101
Children ever born						
Per 1,000 women	374	358	420	595	618	307
Per 1,000 women ever married	813	774	924	952	978	633
Women 25 - 34 years	34,708	24,311	10,397	1,285	1,199	86
Children ever born						
Per 1,000 women	1,308	1,275	1,386	1,539	1,568	1,128
Per 1,000 women ever married	1,481	1,450	1,552	1,772	1,785	1,565
Women 35 - 44 years	19,770	13,693	6,077	656	603	53
Children ever born						
Per 1,000 women	2,482	2,402	2,660	2,982	3,066	2,019
Per 1,000 women ever married	2,554	2,476	2,728	2,967	3,057	2,019

	Alaska Native			Other		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
Women 15 - 24 years	7,580	2,513	5,067	563	466	97
Children ever born						
Per 1,000 women	513	506	516	451	509	175
Per 1,000 women ever married	1,447	1,250	1,572	788	817	531
Women 25 - 34 years	5,157	2,056	3,101	1,271	1,099	172
Children ever born						
Per 1,000 women	2,207	1,943	2,381	1,439	1,431	1,488
Per 1,000 women ever married	2,511	2,209	2,712	1,545	1,529	1,654
Women 35 - 44 years	3,106	1,217	1,889	638	542	96
Children ever born						
Per 1,000 women	4,031	3,441	4,410	2,136	2,201	1,771
Per 1,000 women ever married	4,194	3,551	4,612	2,253	2,308	1,932

SOURCE: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C3, Table 74.

TABLE A.5
CHILDREN EVER BORN PER WOMAN 15 TO 44 YEARS OLD BY AGE AND SELECTED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS, ALASKA
1980

	Women 15 - 44	Women 15 - 24	Women 25 - 34	Women 35 - 44
Age at First Marriage				
Total ever married	1.8	0.9	1.6	2.7
15 to 19	2.1	1.0	2.1	3.3
20 to 24	1.6	0.6	1.5	2.5
25 to 29	1.3	—	0.9	2.1
30 and over	1.3	—	0.8	1.5
Years of School Completed				
Total	1.3	0.4	1.4	2.7
Less than high school	1.2	0.3	2.3	3.8
High school graduate	1.5	0.6	1.7	2.7
Some college	1.3	0.4	1.3	2.5
College graduate	1.1	0.1	0.9	2.0
Graduate training	1.1	0.0	0.7	1.8
Labor Force Status				
All women, ages 16 to 44	1.4	0.5	1.4	2.7
In labor force	1.2	0.3	1.2	2.5
Not in labor force	1.7	0.6	2.0	3.1
Occupation				
Employed women, ages 16 to 44	1.3	0.3	1.1	2.4
Professional/managerial	1.3	0.3	0.9	2.1
Sales/clerical/technician	1.2	0.3	1.2	2.5
Blue collar workers	1.3	0.4	1.4	2.5
Service workers	1.4	0.4	1.5	3.0
Farmers/foresters/fishers	1.3	0.2	1.2	2.8
Family Income				
All married couple families	1.9	0.9	1.7	2.8
Less than $10,000	1.9	1.1	2.1	3.4
$10,000 to $14,999	1.7	1.0	1.9	3.1
$15,000 to $19,999	1.7	0.8	1.9	3.0
$20,000 to $24,999	1.8	1.0	1.7	2.8
$25,000 to $49,999	1.9	0.8	1.6	2.7
$50,000 or more	2.1	1.0	1.4	2.6

SOURCE: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 212.

TABLE A.6
HOUSEHOLD STATUS OF WOMEN IN ALASKA AND THE UNITED STATES
1960 - 1980
(Percentage Distribution)

	Alaska			United States		
	1960	1970	1980	1960	1970	1980
Age and Status						
Total, 25 and Over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wives	83.0	81.1	69.0	71.9	68.7	64.6
Family heads	4.7	6.1	11.5	7.9	9.0	11.6
Nonfamily heads	5.9	6.3	10.6	8.9	12.8	16.2
Other	6.4	6.5	8.9	11.3	9.5	7.6
25 to 34	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wives	89.4	86.2	68.2	83.4	78.3	68.7
Family heads	3.4	4.5	11.1	4.9	8.0	12.2
Nonfamily heads	2.2	3.2	9.5	2.1	3.5	8.6
Other	5.0	6.1	11.2	9.6	9.2	10.5
35 to 44	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wives	89.2	86.4	76.2	83.5	81.3	76.2
Family heads	4.5	7.0	13.2	7.0	9.8	14.8
Nonfamily heads	4.0	2.9	5.7	3.0	3.2	4.6
Other	2.3	3.7	4.9	6.5	5.7	4.4
45 to 64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wives	74.3	76.7	70.4	71.2	72.1	71.1
Family heads	6.1	6.9	10.6	8.7	9.1	10.9
Nonfamily heads	10.3	10.6	12.1	10.6	11.9	13.0
Other	9.3	5.8	6.9	9.5	6.9	5.0
65 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wives	35.5	35.5	35.4	36.5	36.2	38.0
Family heads	9.9	8.6	11.1	11.5	9.3	8.9
Nonfamily heads	24.2	25.0	34.6	26.8	35.7	41.8
Other	30.4	30.9	18.9	25.2	18.8	11.3

SOURCES: 1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-C3, Table 153.
1960 U.S. Census, Report V.1, Part 3, Table 106.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 206.
Bianchi and Spain, American Women: Three Decades of Change, p. 31.

TABLE A.7
YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY SEX AND AGE FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OLDER, ALASKA AND UNITED STATES
(Percentage Distribution)

	1950	1960	1970	1980
Alaska				
Number women, ages 25 and over	24,931	44,656	60,985	136,275
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years or less of school	33.8	23.8	17.6	8.6
1-3 years of high school	14.2	19.0	15.2	15.6
4 years of high school	29.4	34.6	39.6	41.2
1-3 years of college	14.5	13.9	15.1	20.5
4 or more years of college	8.2	8.7	12.5	14.1
Number men, ages 25 and over	41,645	60,231	73,963	157,416
Percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years or less of school	39.5	28.1	19.1	9.0
1-3 years of high school	17.7	18.9	14.7	15.3
4 years of high school	24.2	30.7	36.1	39.0
1-3 years of college	11.5	12.1	14.6	19.3
4 or more years of college	7.1	10.1	15.5	17.4
United States				
Number women, ages 25 and over	44,855,000	51,508,000	58,030,000	70,419,000
Percent	97.5[b]	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years or less of school	45.0	37.8	27.1	18.0
1-3 years of high school	17.4	19.7	20.1	16.2
4 years of high school	22.6	27.7	34.1	37.7
1-3 years of college	7.5	9.0	10.6	15.3
4 or more years of college	5.0	5.8	8.1	12.8
Number men[a], ages 25 and over	42,628,000	47,931,000	51,870,000	62,416,000
Percent	96.9[a]	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years of less of school	49.0	41.8	29.6	18.5
1-3 years of high school	16.4	18.7	18.5	14.2
4 years of high school	17.6	21.2	27.7	31.1
1-3 years of college	6.8	8.6	10.7	16.1
4 or more years of college	7.1	9.7	13.5	20.1

[a]Percents for 1950 for U.S. data do not add to 100.0 due to inclusion of persons whose school history was not repeated.

SOURCE: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 203.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Table 148.
1960 U.S. Census, Vol. 1, Part 3, Table 47.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C1, U.S. Summary Table 83.

TABLE A.8
YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY AGE AND SEX, AGES 18 AND OVER, URBAN AND RURAL ALASKA, 1980
(Percent Distribution)

	Women			Men		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
18 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years or less of school	7.5	4.5	13.7	7.6	4.3	13.6
1-3 years high school	10.8	9.8	12.8	10.5	9.5	12.3
4 years high school	44.3	46.0	40.7	42.1	43.1	40.4
1-3 years college	22.1	23.8	18.7	20.9	22.3	18.3
4 or more years college	15.3	15.9	14.1	18.9	20.8	15.4
18 - 24 years old	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years or less of school	2.5	1.8	4.0	2.6	1.8	4.3
1-3 years high school	17.3	14.8	23.0	19.1	16.5	24.7
4 years high school	56.8	58.4	53.4	59.3	61.3	54.9
1-3 years college	19.8	21.5	15.9	15.6	17.0	12.6
4 or more years college	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.5
25 - 34 years old	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years or less of school	2.8	1.9	4.6	2.2	1.6	3.5
1-3 years high school	63.0	5.7	7.5	5.5	4.6	7.2
4 years high school	41.5	41.7	40.9	40.4	39.4	42.0
1-3 years college	27.3	28.3	25.4	27.5	28.2	26.1
4 or more years college	22.1	22.4	21.6	24.4	26.2	21.2
35 - 44 years old	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years or less of school	6.3	3.2	12.5	6.5	3.1	12.4
1-3 years high school	9.9	9.1	11.4	7.0	5.9	9.0
4 years high school	41.6	41.6	41.5	36.4	35.8	37.5
1-3 years college	22.0	24.1	17.9	21.7	23.7	18.2
4 or more years college	20.2	22.0	16.7	28.4	31.5	22.9
45 years and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
8 years or less of school	19.6	11.8	33.7	20.4	11.8	34.0
1-3 years high school	11.8	11.3	12.6	12.5	12.9	12.0
4 years high school	38.9	43.9	30.0	33.9	36.3	29.9
1-3 years college	17.1	19.3	13.2	16.0	17.9	13.0
4 or more years college	12.6	13.7	10.5	17.2	21.1	11.1

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 203.

TABLE A.9
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT FOR ALASKA AND THE UNITED STATES, BY SEX AND URBAN/RURAL, SELECTED YEARS 1950 - 1980

	Alaska			United States		
		In Labor Force			In Labor Force	
	Total[a]	Percent of Total	Percent[b] Unemployed	Total[a] (Thousand)	Percent of Total	Percent Unemployed
WOMEN						
1950	33,233	36.8	8.4	57,042	28.9	4.6
1960	60,024	39.6	9.8	64,961	34.5	5.4
1970	83,850	46.1	7.6	73,852	41.4	5.2
1980	132,941	59.7	8.1	89,482	49.9	6.5
Urban						
1950	11,348	43.4	8.0	NA	—	—
1960	27,008	48.3	9.1	46,846	37.3	5.3
1970	63,129	51.4	7.6	55,510	43.1	5.0
1980	88,777	64.0	6.9	67,509	51.4	6.3
Rural						
1950	21,885	33.4	8.7	NA	—	—
1960	33,016	32.6	10.6	18,115	27.3	5.8
1970	39,512	40.9	7.6	14,750	37.0	5.8
1980	44,164	51.0	11.0	21,973	45.4	7.1
MEN						
1950	62,775	87.7	10.2	53,312	78.7	4.9
1960	88,734	85.3	14.4	61,315	77.4	5.0
1970	107,277	84.9	6.8	67,236	76.6	3.9
1980	153,409	81.7	9.2	81,732	75.1	6.5
Urban						
1950	14,732	87.9	12.4	NA	—	—
1960	29,879	89.0	13.9	42,480	78.7	5.0
1970	54,278	90.4	9.1	49,355	77.6	3.9
1980	98,609	86.0	9.5	60,211	75.7	6.4
Rural						
1950	48,043	87.7	9.2	NA	—	—
1960	58,835	83.4	14.9	18,835	74.5	4.5
1970	51,625	79.7	11.3	14,167	73.2	4.3
1980	54,800	74.1	13.6	21,521	73.7	6.9

[a]1950 and 1960 data include ages 14 and over; 1970 and 1980 includes ages 16 and over.

[b]Percent of civilian labor force.

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C3, Tables 61, 67.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-C3, Table 53.
1960 U.S. Census, Report V.1, Part 3, Table 52.
1950 U.S. Census, Report P-B51, Table 15.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C1, U.S. Summary, Table 86.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-C1, U.S. Summary, Table 90.
1960 U.S. Census, Report V.1, Part 1, U.S. Summary, Table 82.

TABLE A.10
LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES, BY AGE AND SEX
ALASKA, 1960 - 1980

	1960	1970	1980
Female			
16 - 19 years old	36.0	34.2	48.1
20 - 24 years old	37.7	53.8	65.7
25 - 29 years old	35.2	44.4	65.6
30 - 34 years old	37.9	44.9	65.3
35 - 39 years old	42.5	47.2	67.0
40 - 44 years old	47.3	50.7	66.5
45 - 49 years old	51.9	53.2	61.7
50 - 54 years old	53.4	49.8	57.4
55 - 59 years old	48.6	52.0	50.3
60 - 64 years old	36.9	43.6	36.4
65 years old and over	14.9	18.5	15.8
Male			
16 - 19 years old	69.9	51.9	52.7
20 - 24 years old	93.3	92.2	85.8
25 - 29 years old	93.8	92.4	90.2
30 - 34 years old	95.2	92.6	92.1
35 - 39 years old	92.9	93.5	91.9
40 - 44 years old	93.0	92.3	91.1
45 - 49 years old	90.2	89.9	90.0
50 - 54 years old	89.3	86.1	84.7
55 - 59 years old	85.5	83.7	75.8
60 - 64 years old	77.9	71.4	55.4
65 years old and over	31.6	36.0	23.3

SOURCES: **1960 U.S. Census, Vol. 1, Part 3, Table 116.**
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 213.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Table 164.

TABLE A.11
OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE OF EMPLOYED FEMALES 16 YEARS OLD AND OLDER, UNITED STATES AND ALASKA 1970 AND 1980
(Percentage Distribution)

	1970		1980			
	U.S.	Alaska	U.S.	Alaska	Alaska Percent Full-time	AK Women as Percent of Workers
All occupations, Number employed	28,930,000	35,122	41,635,000	70,693		
Percent	100	100	100	100	74	43
Professional/technical	15	18	17	19	76	43
Managerial-administrative except farm	4	6	8	12	88	37
Sales	11	11	11	11	64	53
Clerical	32	36	31	34	80	80
Craft	3	1	2	2	77	5
Operatives, including transport	12	4	10	3	61	18
Nonfarm laborer	2	2	2	1	61	14
Service, except private household	16	18	17	16	61	54
Private household service	4	3	1	1	29	94
Farming, forestry, fishing	1	1	1	1	66	13

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C3, Table 61.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 217.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C1, U.S. Summary, Table 89.

TABLE A.12
EARNINGS BY OCCUPATION FOR YEAR-ROUND FULL-TIME CIVILIAN WORKERS, BY SEX, 1980, ALASKA AND UNITED STATES*

	Women	Men	Ratio: Women To Men
Alaska			
All occupations	$16,057	$27,897	58
Professional	20,406	30,200	68
Technical	17,477	29,090	60
Managerial-administrative	18,935	31,981	59
Sales	13,338	23,918	56
Clerical	15,503	23,461	66
Crafts	15,133	29,888	51
Machine operators	13,080	25,415	51
Fabricators	5,500	26,111	21
Transportation operatives	15,231	27,082	56
Nonfarm laborers	15,240	22,683	67
Services	12,739	22,698	56
Farming, forestry, fishing	7,714	22,765	34
United States			
All occupations	$11,197	$18,612	60
Professional & technical	15,285	23,026	66
Managerial-administrative	12,936	23,558	55
Sales	9,748	19,910	49
Clerical	10,997	18,247	60
Craft	11,701	18,671	63
Operatives, except transport	9,453	15,651	60
Transport operatives	9,200	15,817	58
Nonfarm laborers	9,747	12,757	76
Services	7,853	13,064	60
Farm	3,059	7,815	39

*Alaska data for persons 16 years and older; U.S. Data for persons 15 years and older.

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 222.
U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Report Series P-60, No. 132, Money Income of Households, Families, and Persons in the United States, 1980, Table 55.

TABLE A.13
MEAN WEEKLKY EARNINGS BY SEX, AGE, AND YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED FOR ALASKA, 1980

Age and Mean Weekly Earnings		FEMALE				MALE			
		8 Years	High School 4 Years	College 1-3 Years	College 4 Years	8 Years	High School 4 Years	College 1-3 Years	College 4 Years
18 & over:	Usually worked 35 hours or more per week	$263	$291	$324	$409	$595	$459	$538	$607
	Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week	164	144	148	167	416	278	245	300
18 to 24:	Usually worked 35 hours or more per week	195	216	246	285	313	282	332	315
	Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week	28	114	131	118	210	154	175	147
25 to 34:	Usually worked 35 hours or more per week	187	306	326	388	585	439	492	535
	Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week	127	147	150	161	197	315	232	288
35 to 44:	Usually worked 35 hours or more per week	243	330	369	495	566	577	621	703
	Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week	178	157	141	206	210	397	359	315
45 to 54:	Usually worked 35 hours or more per week	317	341	367	435	630	659	680	717
	Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week	159	176	162	115	779	408	358	310
55 to 64:	Usually worked 35 hours or more per week	269	347	373	450	677	636	712	757
	Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week	147	172	200	154	702	567	501	628
65 & over:	Usually worked 35 hours or more per week	357	282	281	439	474	567	509	627
	Usually worked 1 to 34 hours per week	303	136	192	208	145	313	190	143

SOURCE: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 237.

TABLE A.14
INCOME OF PERSONS IN ALASKA AND UNITED STATES BY SEX, 1960 - 1980
(Percent Distribution)

	1960		1970		1980	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Alaska						
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than $2,000	54	31	40	18	18	8
$2,000 - 5,999	36	34	33	27	24	13
$6,000 - 9,999	9	23	19	18	16	14
$10,000 - 14,999[a]	1	12	7	20	16	12
$15,000 24,999	NA	NA	1	14	19	19
$25,000 - 49,999[b]	NA	NA	*	3	7	28
$50,000 or more	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	6
Median income[d]	$4,536	$10,380	$5,718	$13,192	$7,965	$16,261
Ratio: Women to Men		44		43		49
United States						
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than $2,000	64	21	53	19	39	16
$2,000 - 5,999	18	17	20	15	27	16
$6,000 - 9,999	11	16	13	12	16	14
$10,000 - 14,999[a]	7	46	9	17	11	16
$15,000 24,999	NA	NA	4	25	6	24
$25,000 - 49,999[b]	NA	NA	1	12	1	12
$50,000 or more	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	2
Median income[d]	$8,637	NA[c]	$8,616	$23,850	$5,260	$12,192
Ratio: Women to Men		NA		36		43

*Less than one-half percent.

[a]In 1960, data are for $10,000 and over.

[b]In 1970, data are for $25,000 and over.

[c]In 1960, median income for men is given as over $10,000.

[d]In 1979 dollars.

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C1, U.S. Summary, Table 95.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 234.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Table 192.
1960 U.S. Census, Report V.1, Part 3, Table 67.

TABLE A.15
MEDIAN INCOME OF ALL FAMILIES AND FEMALE-HEADED FAMILIES BY RACE, ALASKA AND UNITED STATES, 1970 AND 1980
(In 1979 Dollars)

	1980		1970	
	Alaska		Alaska	
	Statewide	Rural	Statewide	Rural
All Races				
All families	$28,395	$25,574	$23,379	$23,026
Female householder, no husband present*	12,375	10,147	10,021	7,537
Percent	43.6%	39.7%	42.9%	32.7%
White				
All families	30,881	29,501	25,187	NA
Female householder, no husband present*	14,947	11,568	11,950	NA
Percent	48.4%	39.2%	47.5%	NA
Alaska Native				
All families	15,921	14,722	NA	NA
Female householder, no husband present*	9,034	8,763	NA	NA
Percent	56.7%	59.5%	NA	NA

	1980 United States	1970 United States
All Races		
All families	$20,835	$17,938
Female householder, no husband present*	11,384	9,279
Percent	54.6%	51.7%
White		
All families	21,817	18,614
Female householder, no husband present*	11,774	10,505
Percent	54.0%	56.4%
Black		
All families	$12,598	$11,334
Female householder, no husband present*	7,271	6,352
Percent	57.7%	56.0%

*In 1970, Alaska data includes all female-headed families.

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 238.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Table 198.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C1, U.S. Summary, Table 128.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D1, Table 250.

TABLE A.16
POVERTY STATUS[a] OF ALASKA AND U.S. FAMILIES BY RACE, 1980

	All Families			Female-Headed Families, No Husband Present		
		Below Poverty Level			Below Poverty Level	
	Total	Number	% of Total	Total	Number	% of Total
Alaska						
All Races	96,840	8,319	8.6	10,055	2,669	26.5
White	79,300	4,778	6.0	6,549	1,374	21.0
Alaska Native	12,036	3,042	25.3	2,699	1,071	39.7
Black	3,270	301	9.2	570	173	30.3
United States[b]						
All Races	59,190	5,670	9.6	8,205	2,484	30.3
White	50,645	3,567	7.0	5,489	1,225	22.3
Black	6,104	1,616	26.5	2,272	1,052	46.3
Spanish Origin	3,274	696	21.3	636	306	48.1

[a]A national standard defined by the federal government. Tends to understate poverty in Alaska due to higher living cost.

[b]Numbers in thousands

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C3, Table 82.
1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C1, U.S. Summary, Tables 96, 139.

TABLE A.17
MEDIAN INCOME AND PROPORTION BELOW POVERTY* BY AGE, ALASKA, 1980

	Alaska		
	Number Persons	Percent Below Poverty Level	Median Income
Female			
25 Years Old and Over	97,965	9.2	$10,096
25 to 34 Years Old	42,836	9.4	10,056
35 to 44 Years Old	24,293	7.4	11,736
45 to 54 Years Old	15,328	8.7	11,876
55 to 64 Years Old	9,998	11.1	9,310
65 Years Old and Over	5,510	13.4	4,702
Male			
25 Years Old and Over	113,432	7.7	$21,923
25 to 34 Years Old	48,276	7.5	18,107
35 to 44 Years Old	29,683	6.7	26,149
45 to 54 Years Old	18,584	6.6	27,624
55 to 64 Years Old	11,240	11.0	23,267
65 Years Old and Over	5,649	13.2	7,741

*Based on the national standard set by the federal government. Tends to understate poverty in Alaska due to higher living costs.

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PL80-1-D3, Tables 234, 245.

TABLE A.18
STATUS OF OLDER ALASKAN WOMEN, 1970 and 1980
(Percent Distribution)

	1970	1980
Women 65 Years Old and Older	5,510	2,939
Percent	100%	100%
Living Arrangement		
In Families	46	44
Heads of families	11	9
Wives	35	35
In Nonfamily Households	47	50
Heads of nonfamily households	35	25
Living alone	31	24
In Group Quarters	7	6
Employment		
Worked in 1979	21	23
Did not work in 1979	79	76
Income and Poverty		
Median Income (1979 dollars)	$4,702	$2,127
Below Poverty Level	13.4	NA

SOURCES: 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Tables 206, 214, and 234.
1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Tables 153, 154, 167, and 195.

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SOURCES OF DATA FOR FIGURES

Figure A	1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-B3, Table 203 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 19&20
B	1980 U.S. Census, Report PC-1-C3, Table 74 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC-1-D3, Table 212 1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-C3, Table 52 1960 U.S. Census, Report Volume 1, Part 3, Table 51
C	1980 U.S. Census, Report PC-1-D3, Table 64 1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-D3, Table 153
D & E	1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 206 1970 U.S. Census, Report PC(1)-C3, Table 153 1960 U.S. Census, Report Volume 1, Part 3, Table 106 Bianchi and Spain, *American Women: Three Decades of Change*, p. 30.
F	1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-D3, Table 203 1980 U.S. Census, Report PC80-1-C1, U.S. Summary, Table 83 1960 U.S. Census, Report Volume 1, Part 3, Table 47
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(907) 561-4227

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